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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/827,250	04/20/2004	Shinji Takahashi	Q81110	2550	
65565	7590	10/27/2008	EXAMINER		
SUGHRUE-265550		GAY, SONIA L			
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/827,250	TAKAHASHI, SHINJI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	SONIA GAY	2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 July 2008.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to Amendment submitted on 07/16/2008 in which claims 1 -16 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. Claims 1-4 and 13- 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (US 2001/0023487) in view of Wesley et al. (US 6,275,859).

For claims 1 and 13, Kawamoto teaches a host management method and apparatus (authentication server terminal: Fig. 1, 100) being placed on a network to which hosts of an electronic conference system (sender terminal, receiver terminal: Fig. 1, 110, 140) are connected comprising:

a host authentication section (user authentication device : Fig. 2 222) for authenticating a selected host ([0044]) and,

a host information registration section (user information retrieving section: : Fig. 2 231) for registering host information including IP address information (multicast address and port number, [0039]) of a host authenticated by said host authentication section. ([0039])

Yet, Kawamoto fails to teach a host authentication section for authenticating a selected host based on a user key that is unique to users of the host management apparatus.

However, Wesley et al, discloses a host management apparatus and method wherein a user presents a user key that is unique to users of the host management apparatus to the hose

management apparatus for the purpose of authenticating a selected host to participate in an electronic conference (column 3 lines 65 - column 4 lines 11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify Kawamoto with the teachings of Wesley et al. for the user to present a user key that is unique to the users of the host management apparatus, i.e. password, for the purpose of authenticating a selected host to participate in an electronic conference.

For claims 2 – 4 and 13 – 15, Kawamoto further discloses host information storage section (server registration information: Fig. 2 240) for storing the host information of the host authenticated by said host authentication section. ([0039])

a host information update section for updating the host information stored in the host information storage section. ([0039])

wherein the host information update section updates the host information in a predetermined cycle. (login, logout, periodically retransmitting encryption key as record of participation : [0018][0045])

storing the host information of the host authenticated in said step of authenticating the selected host ([0039]); updating the stored host information ([0018][0045]); and acquiring host information of a host that enables to be connected for taking part in a conference([0039]) .

a host management program of a host management apparatus being placed on a network to which hosts of an electronic conference system are connected, causing a computer to perform: a host authentication function of authenticating a selected host; and a host information

registration function of registering host information including IP address information of a host authenticated by the host authentication function. (Claim 9; [0039][0044]).

2. Claims 5-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (US 2001/0023487) in view of Wesley et al. (US 6,275,859), and further in view of Yamaguchi et al. (US. 7,136,997)

For claims 5-8, Kawamoto fails to teach a host information exchange section for mutually exchanging the host information between said host management apparatus and another host management apparatus.

However, Yamaguchi et al. teaches a device and method wherein said host management apparatus (authentication server for carrying out a registration of a new device : column 3 lines 21 – 24) contains an information exchange section (registration information delivery unit : column 4 lines 14 – 17) for the purpose of mutually exchanging host information between said host management apparatus and another host apparatus (back-up authentication server : column 3 lines 24 – 29) to avoid the problem of losing host information if only one host apparatus is available and fails (column 2 lines 43 - 46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the invention disclosed in Kawamoto with the invention disclosed in Yamaguchi et al. to include an information exchange section in the host management apparatus disclosed above in Kawamoto for the purpose of exchanging registration information of the hosts disclosed above in Kawamoto with another host management apparatus disclosed above in Kawamoto.

For claims 9 - 12, Yamaguchi further discloses the claimed invention above and further discloses wherein the host information exchange section exchanges the host information in a predetermined cycle (Yamaguchi, time of device registration : column 10 lines 43 – 57).

3. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawamoto (US 2001/0023487) in view of Wesley et al. (US 6,275,859), and further in view of Kleinman et al. (US 6,629,243).

For claim 16, Kawamoto fails to teach a plurality of host management apparatuses according to Claim 1; wherein the plurality of host management apparatuses are distant from one another; and wherein the plurality of host management apparatuses mutually exchange information therebetween.

However, Kleinman et al. discloses a plurality of host management apparatuses according to Claim 1 wherein the plurality of host management apparatuses are distant from one another and mutually exchange information therebetween for the purpose conducting a secure multicast (column1 lines : 11 – 16; column 6 lines 51 – 60).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Kawamoto et al. with the teachings of Kleinman et al. wherein a plurality of the host management apparatuses which are distant from one another mutually exchange information therebetween for the purpose of conducting a secure multicast.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 - 15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SONIA GAY whose telephone number is (571)270-1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sonia Gay/
Examiner, Art Unit 2614

October 20, 2008

/Ahmad F Matar/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2614